

When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Norm Crosby

Hafeez Saeed's re-arrest

Under strong US pressure, Pakistan has put Hafeez Saeed, the mastermind of the 26/11 serial terror attacks in Mumbai, under house arrest again, according to a TV channel report. The Judicial Review Board of Pakistan had set him free a few days ago because the prosecution (the Pakistan Government) had failed to produce evidence strong enough to justify his continued detention. And this, despite India having provided to Pakistan incontestable evidence to secure Hafeez Saeed's conviction. Pakistan has always rejected the evidence provided by India as either inadequate or inconclusive, obviously because it did not want to prosecute him and obtain his conviction. Now it seems that the combined reaction of the US, India, France and other Western countries against Hafeez's release has forced Pakistan to reverse its earlier decision.

With the onset of winter, the infiltration of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to taper out for the next three to four months but will go up again as the snow starts melting. India should utilize the lull period to strengthen its anti-infiltration measures. New Delhi should try to ensure US support for carrying out operations across the border to smoke out terrorist camps located in PoK. It has to be made plain to Pakistan that the proxy war it has been waging against India through the so-called non-State actors will prove increasingly costly to it. India-US cooperation against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is necessary because China is openly siding with Pakistan on the question of terrorism as seen in its bid to block the move to declare Hafeez Saeed an international terrorist by the United Nations.

Vigil has mounted on Indo-Bangladesh border also as Pakistan is trying to infiltrate terrorists through Bangladesh. Some of the terrorists arrested in West Bengal have confessed to have set up 'sleeper cells' and secret units to make bombs and explosives with local support. Sharing of intelligence and greater Centre-State and Indo-Bangla coordination to deal with the terrorists in this region is a must now.

AIDS Awareness & Family Education for Every Citizen

REFLEX ACTION

Dr. S. Ganesan



HIV/AIDS is not only a biomedical phenomenon but a social reality rooted in human behavior. It is product of human actions in social contexts. The actions and their circumstances are shaped by larger cultural and social structures. Therefore to have a significant impact on the epidemic, education interventions must be rigorously designed according to best practices and adapted to local needs. Among the Indians, sexual norms are still to abide by the life-long of monogamy, while, in most societies severely hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the norms have been 'change of partners'. Virginity before marriage is still highly valued among most Indians and families have by and large greater control over the behavior of children at least until they are married and settled. However, with India's shift from a predominantly agricultural, low subsistence and low consumption economy and a community based social structure, to an industrially developing nation with urbanization; migration and breakdown of rural economics, joint family system and communities, there have been shifts in social values and world views. The degree and nature of this impact has been varies across different sections. The weakening controls have allowed grade individual freedom and releasing the stifling controls on young people.

High consumption life-styles have raised aspirations of others and increased the consumption gap between the top and bottom sections. Along with the increasing value placed on material consumption, there has also been an increase in perception of sexuality as a commodity to be 'consumed' for pleasure. The gap between material aspirations and socio-economic status has led to distortions such as the spread of promiscuity, corruption, growth of the Mafia, drug trafficking etc. All these factors have also contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS in the sub-continent.

HIV Awareness and Family Education: WHY?
There is no cure for HIV/AIDS at the moment and no vaccine for prevention. The only way for prevention is education and behavior modification. There is a need for professionally trained and skilled personnel certified by a competent authority (like an institution of higher education) such as university. There is resistance from parents and teachers to schools going for education on sensitive topics such as HIV/AIDS and sex education. We need to create awareness, provide knowledge and skills so that the trainers of trainees (TOTs) can skillfully handle such topics. What we require today is to manage the illness through indigenously developed prevention strategies and not relying on materials prepared for people belonging to

other social and cultural settings. There should be adequate in-put in terms of our traditional cultural, social, moral and religious values. There is stigma attached to the HIV/AIDS disease which forces the infected to hide. Education with appropriate information will help people to provide better home care and emotional support. There is lot of misconception, misinformation and inaccurate information on the subject of HIV/AIDS. A carefully planned curriculum will seek to provide accurate, complete and authentic information on the subject. There is a demand for a formal programme of study on these topics from those who are involved in work related to HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and family crisis management.

Purposes of AIDS Awareness & Family Education
People should have the knowledge and skills needed for healthy human relationships, effective communication, and responsible decision-making behavior that will protect themselves and others from HIV/STD infection and optimize health. The goals of AIDS programmes include promoting behaviors that prevent the transmission of HIV/STD, fostering individual and behavior that will prevent discrimination against those who are infected with HIV/STD, and promoting solidarity among them.

- Everyone should:**
- Understand the nature of HIV/AIDS/STDs and its transmission.
 - Understand the nature and consequences of substance abuse.
 - Have accurate and complete information about facts of life.
 - Develop appropriate communication skills for life.
 - Make informed decisions about behavior that protect them from HIV/AIDS/STDs and drug addiction.
 - Understand the symptoms of HIV/AIDS/STDs and seek appropriate medical care when needed.
 - Value their own health and relationships free from HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.
 - Behave personally and socially in ways that eliminate the risk of spreading HIV infection and becoming addict.
 - Reject biased information and myths relating to facts of life and HIV infection.
 - Develop positive attitude towards those who are infected

- with HIV and addicted to drugs.
 - Increase the level of knowledge about the impact of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse on the community, society, economy of the country etc.
 - Develop skills in initiating action-oriented programmes for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, sensitizing people, initiating teaching, research and extension programmes etc.
 - Develop modules and teaching aids for use at grassroots level.
- Who gets benefits from AIDS Awareness & Family Education?**

Teachers (schools, colleges and universities), Persons Care workers with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Health Care workers including physicians, nurses, hospital administrative staff and other para-medicals, Personnel and welfare officers from corporate sectors; Young people who are yet to get married; Newly married couples; College and university students; Parents of adolescents; Workers in social and social welfare institutions such as prisons, orphanages, rescue homes, hostels, boarding houses, rehabilitation homes, etc.; People working among sex workers and street children; Staff de-addiction centres; Legal officers; Religious leaders; Journalists and media professionals; Persons employed in armed forces and Para-military personnel; People involved in counselling services for family, youth, drug addicts, hospitals etc.

Role of Distance Education
The 6-months Certificate course in HIV and Family Education (CAFÉ) and one year Diploma in HIV and Family Education (DAFE) of IGNOU provides comprehensive knowledge about the what, why and how of the problems of HIV/AIDS, how it can be prevented and controlled, and how to take care of those who are already infected with HIV. To impart an integrated understanding to learner about the crucial dimensions of the problems and issues associated with HIV/AIDS, substance abuse (i.e. Abuse of alcohol and drugs) and human behavior, also introduces the learner to the fundamental aspect of family life education including sexual health education.

To improve the awareness level, it is necessary to include the HIV and Family Education subjects at school education level, at undergraduate / PG studies. It can also be part of all kind of training programmes organized by government agencies. This in turn will improve the situation and save a lot of life.

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Dancers perform during a ceremony at the Angkor Wat temple to pray for peace and stability in Cambodia, in Siem Reap province, Cambodia--REUTERS

Secularism and Sangh parivar

FOCUS

Amulya Ganguli

Ram Nath Kovind's failure to mention Jawaharlal Nehru's name in his first speech as the President in which he referred to other stalwarts like Deen Dayal Upadhyay was not inadvertent. The saffron brotherhood's dislike for India's first prime minister is as deep-rooted as its reverence for Vallabhbhai Patel, the country's first deputy prime minister. So much so that Narendra Modi once wondered aloud how wonderfully different India would have been if Patel, and not Nehru, had become the PM in 1947. Arguably, one of the BJP's objectives ever since securing a majority in the Lok Sabha is to undo Mahatma Gandhi's 'mistake' of choosing Nehru over Patel as his successor and enact in real life the Sangh Parivar's dream of what India would have been if Patel had been at the helm. Perhaps as a step in this direction, the present-day rulers are trying to replicate what the Soviet communists did in their heyday by erasing the memories of their ideological adversaries in an exercise in inducing forgetfulness by turning a person into an "unperson", to quote George Orwell. Ram Nath Kovind's silence

on Nehru was the first sign of what was a foot. Now, we have the telltale spectacle of an exhibition on books being held in Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi without a book by or on Nehru although the volumes of others like - you guessed right Deen Dayal Upadhyay, the Parivar's latest mascot on whom another BJP prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, never said a word - are prominently displayed. Why is the BJP intent on airbrushing Nehru out of the national portrait gallery? The reasons are not far to seek. At their root is the fact that Nehru is the exact opposite of what the BJP stands for. For one, he was indisputably modern with the vision of promoting an industrially developed nation - dams are the temples of modern India", he said - while the BJP is obsessed with the medieval ages: Babur in the 1990s and now Allauddin Khilji. It speaks more of temples than of dams. For another, at the core of Nehru's worldview was secularism. That the concept is anathema to the Hindutva lobby could be seen from the way it has been mocked from LK Advani's coinage of the term, pseudo-secular, to the invention of the

word, sikular, by the Internet Hindus. Secularism to Nehruvians is related to the idea of a composite culture, which is the socio-religious outcome of the interactions between different communities, notably Hindus and Muslims, over centuries. These relations were marked by conflict and consensus, belligerence and brotherhood as in any other case of two or more groups living side by side. As Nehru said at the time of partition, "the history of India has been one of assimilation and synthesis of the various elements that have come in ... It is perhaps because we tried to go against the trend of the country's history that we are faced with this (communal riots)".

Rabindranath Tagore, too, underlined the same point of integration and amalgamation when he wrote about how the Scythians, Huns, Pathans and Mughals had become one in the sea of India's humanity. According to Salman Rushdie, India's 'self-

hood is so capacious, so elastic that it manages to accommodate one billion kinds of difference ... It works because the individual sees his own nature writ large in the nature of the state. "This is why individual Indians feel so comfortable about the strength of the national idea, why it's so easy to 'belong' to it despite of all the turbulence. ... Such an interpretation of togetherness is unacceptable to the saffronites, to whom it is a fantasy of bleeding heart liberals. For the RSS and the BJP, virtually endless strife characterized the Hindu-Muslim relations in the past. Not only that, it is continuing to this day since the perfidious Babur ki aulad (children of Babur) are suspected of conspiring to carve out another Pakistan via a relentless increase in their population with their four wives - num panch, hamare patnis (we five, our 25), as Modi once said with his trademark eloquence. What undoubtedly also

rites the Hindutva lobby is Nehru's cosmopolitan outlook with its pro-English orientation which made him assure the Tamilians protesting against the "imposition" of Hindi in the 1960s that English would continue as one of the official languages as long as the non-Hindi speakers wanted it. In contrast, the insular Hindu-Hindustan saffron brigade describes the English-speaking urbane sophisticates as Macaulay's children (like Babur's aulad) who are out of touch with Indian culture whose essence is Hinduism with its close links with the regional languages. It is patent enough that there is a vast difference between Nehru's broadminded weltanschauung which encompasses the entire nation and the RSS-BJP's blinkered, north Indian nativism which would regard as foreign even the southern and northeastern parts of the country. It is India's good fortune that Nehru was at the helm during the traumatic period of the country's visivsection and to guide it for more than a decade afterwards to enable democracy and pluralism acquire firm roots. It is this stable base which will save India even if Nehru is ignored. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

- ACROSS**
- 1 Green
 - 3 Main actor
 - 4 Kimono sash
 - 5 Responsibility for crime
 - 6 Draw
 - 7 Stop
 - 8 Brilliance of success
 - 9 Insects
 - 10 Cast off
 - 11 Corkwood
 - 12 Rub out
 - 13 Anxiety
 - 14 Happen again
 - 15 Doctrine
 - 16 Employed
- DOWN**
- 1 Rows
 - 2 Frozen formation
 - 3 Hill
 - 4 Less
 - 5 Equip
 - 6 Draw
 - 7 Make lace
 - 8 Dairy product
 - 9 Chances by vote
 - 10 Barrier
 - 11 Tree
 - 12 Friend (Fr)

SUDOKU: 2044

3	4							
6					5	8		
1	9		6		4			
	6		5	3			1	
	1				3			
2		7	4		9			
7	5	3	2		8	1		
				4			2	

Yesterday's Solution (2043)

6	2	4	8	5	9	1	3	7
5	1	9	3	4	7	2	8	6
3	8	7	1	2	6	9	4	5
7	9	1	5	8	2	4	6	3
4	3	5	9	6	1	8	7	2
2	6	8	4	7	3	5	9	1
9	5	6	7	1	4	3	2	8
8	4	2	6	3	5	7	1	9
1	7	3	2	9	8	6	5	4

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution (032)

I	N	A	N	E	O	W	L
M	Z	W	E	E	P	A	
P	L	U	M	E	L	E	N
E	R	R	U	N	I	T	
L	E	E	K	S	D	L	
Y	I	D	E	F	E	R	
F	E	A	T	E	L	E	A
I	D	L	E	P	L	U	M
A	O	S	L	O	T	P	
T	O	E	L	T	R	E	S

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